



BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

BY GREG FREEMAN, DEPARTMENT NEWS EDITOR

Bismarck Youth Wins Best of Show

A pair of blue-winged teal, titled "Sun Watchers," was chosen Best of Show in the 2005 North Dakota Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

Daniel Dwyer, an 18-year-old high school senior from Bismarck, used oil paints to depict a pair of blue-winged teal resting on a fallen log. His artwork was selected from more than 600 North Dakota entries. It is the second time he has received the top honor in the contest.

Dwyer will represent North Dakota at the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest in Maryland. First place winners at the national competition receive a trip to Washington, D.C., \$4,000 cash award, and their entry made into a stamp.

Other first place winners in the four age categories were Will Aide, Joseph Dwyer, Thomas Dwyer, and Danielle Molinaro, all Bismarck; Noah Christenson, Maxbass; Jessica Haag, Fairfield; Jaiden Langlie, Fargo; Jory Miller, Deering; Christina Rolf and Samantha Swanberg, both Valley City; and Brennen Stotts, Lisbon.



Artist Daniel Dwyer won the North Dakota Junior Duck Stamp Contest for the second time.

Conservation Camp for Kids

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation will be holding a youth conservation camp August 7-13 at the Triangle Y Camp near Garrison on Lake Sakakawea for kids ages 12-16.

Hands-on activities include archery, bird watching, water ecology, outdoor survival, canoeing, fishing, trapshooting, and rangeland and wetland studies.

Co-sponsored by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the camp is limited to the first 80 individuals registered. Cost is \$175, which covers all meals and accommodations. A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required for pre-registration and will be credited toward the camp cost. For more information, contact the North Dakota Wildlife Federation at 888-827-2557.

RAP Auction Results

Confiscated hunting and fishing equipment sold at the North Dakota Wildlife Federation's Report All Poachers auction in March netted \$27,857 for the program.

Items sold included more than 50 shotguns, rifles and handguns, rods and reels, tackle boxes, compound bows, arrows, spotlights, knives, coolers and backpacks.

All proceeds from the auction fund the RAP program. The RAP line (800-472-2121) offers monetary rewards for information that leads to conviction of fish and wildlife law violators. The RAP line is available 24 hours a day, and callers can remain anonymous.

Fishing Volunteers Needed

Lure 'Em For Life, a nonprofit volunteer fishing education club working through the State Game and Fish Department, needs help at a fish camp for kids this summer.

The camp will be held the week of August 8 at Lakewood Bible Camp on Devils Lake for kids ages 8-14. Volunteers, who will be asked to be boaters, fishing educators and shore helpers, can volunteer for any number of days.

If you aren't already a fishing volunteer for Game and Fish, some training is first required. For more information about volunteer training, call Jeff Long, Department education coordinator, at 328-6322.

The camp is located on the east side of Creel Bay and has accommodations on site with motel-style rooms for volunteers. Camping is also available at Lakewood Bible Camp, and electrical and water hookups are available. Kids attending the camp will be housed in a separate youth lodge.

Educational materials, fishing tackle, equipment and supplies are supplied by Lure 'Em For Life through a number of sponsors and Game and Fish. For more information, call Joe Neuenschwander at 255-3162 or Roger Kotchian at 588-4411.



RON WILSON

Sullys Hill Birding and Nature Festival

Birding and nature enthusiasts are invited to attend the sixth annual Birding and Nature Festival June 16-19 at Sullys Hill National Game Preserve near Devils Lake.

The gathering will feature a variety of workshops and seminars including nature landscaping, wildflower identification, bird watching, birding by ear, nest and egg identification and more. Hands-on activities for youngsters are scheduled for June 18.

Guided bird walks and tours of Kellys Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge and Sullys Hill National Game Preserve are also offered during the festival.

The festival is free and open to the public. For more information and to pre-register for classes, tours and workshops contact Sullys Hill Wildlife Refuge Society, PO Box 286, Fort Totten, N.D. 58335; 701-766-4272; fwssully@stellarnet.com. For more information, visit www.sullyshillbirdfest.com.

Sullys Hill National Game Preserve is located southwest of Devils Lake near Fort Totten. It has long been recognized as one of state's natural treasures, having been set aside as a national park by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904, and continuing in that capacity until 1931 when it was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Features include a 4.5-mile auto tour through a big game enclosure and a 1.5-mile self-guided nature trail running through wooded terrain.

Record Deer Harvest in 2004

North Dakota deer hunters tagged a record number of deer in 2004.

Such a high harvest was not unexpected, as a record 145,250 deer gun licenses were made available for the 2004 season, and only 1,256 were not sold.

Overall hunter success was 74 percent, down 5 percent from 2003, but about average for the past 15 years. Due to the record number of licenses issued, the overall deer harvest was 98,500, up from 91,900 in 2003.

One of the primary objectives of the 2004 deer season was to significantly increase the harvest of antlerless white-tailed deer. "The state's white-tailed deer population is well above management objectives in many units," said Randy Kreil, Game and Fish Department wildlife division chief. "In order to more effectively meet management goals, a special supplemental deer season for only antlerless white-tailed deer was held in December."

The special December deer season was considered a success, Kreil said, as an estimated 7,700 antlerless white-tailed deer were taken. "This was about 8 percent of the total harvest," he said.

Overall hunter success for any-antlered deer was 74 percent, and any-antlerless was 73 percent. The number of hunters who purchased a license, but did not attempt to fill it, increased from 6 to 7 percent. The average hunter spent three days afield.

Hunter success for whitetail bucks was 73 percent and antlerless whitetail was 72 percent.

Mule deer numbers and harvest have been gradually increasing, with high success rates, Kreil said, as 82 percent of mule deer buck hunters and 84 percent of mule deer doe hunters were successful.

"From hunter harvest surveys and public comment it appears that we are reaching management goals in some units in the northwestern and southeastern portions of the state," Kreil said.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS ON TELEVISION

Your Weekly Window on the WILD

Bismarck	KFYR	Tuesday	10 pm
Bismarck	KXMB	Sunday	10 pm
Bismarck	CATV	Saturday	Noon
Dickinson	KQCD	Tuesday	*9 pm
Dickinson	KXMA	Sunday	*9 pm
Fargo	KVRR	Sunday	9 pm
Grand Forks	WDAZ	Wednesday	5 pm
Minot	KMOT	Tuesday	10 pm
Minot	KXMC	Monday	Noon
Williston	KUMV	Tuesday	10 pm
Williston	KXMD	Monday	Noon

*Mountain time

Bighorn Sheep Auction License Sells

Jerry Brenner of West Olive, Michigan paid \$43,000 for North Dakota's 2005 bighorn sheep auction license at the Minnesota-Wisconsin Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep annual meeting in Minneapolis. Last year's license sold for \$40,000.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin chapter is a strong supporter of bighorn sheep management efforts in North Dakota, according to Brett Wiedmann, North Dakota Game and Fish Department bighorn sheep biologist,

Dickinson. "They have provided funding for our ongoing telemetry project in the badlands as well as several bighorn translocations, including last December's capture and transplant of 15 sheep from Oregon," he said. "Their enthusiasm for North Dakota's bighorn sheep continues to grow and is reflected in the national interest our auction tag generates."

License sale proceeds, along with an additional grant of \$25,000, will be used to enhance management of North Dakota's

bighorn sheep. The grant and license auction are part of a 10-year agreement, signed in 1999, between the Department and the Minnesota-Wisconsin conservation group.

In addition, the chapter auctioned several items at the March gathering, including an original painting and a life-size bronze sculpture of North Dakota bighorns, bringing in an additional \$9,700, with all proceeds donated to sheep projects in North Dakota.



CRAIG BIHRLE

Game and Fish Pays Property Taxes

Each year the North Dakota Game and Fish Department pays taxes to 50 counties in which the Department owns or leases land. In February, Game and Fish paid more than \$418,000 for last year's taxes, according to Doug Howie, Department assistant private lands coordinator.

Game and Fish owns or manages more than 185,000 acres statewide. This land is managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting.

The payments, called "in-lieu-of-tax payments," are the same as property taxes paid by private landowners. The Game and Fish Department has paid taxes on its lands since 1965, Howie said.

The Department does not own or manage any land in Billings, Traill or Renville counties. Following is a list of counties and tax payments received.

County	Tax Due	County	Tax Due	County	Tax Due
Adams	163.66	Grant	492.21	Ramsey	1,470.66
Barnes	4,679.82	Griggs	352.65	Ransom	1,757.92
Benson	2,781.14	Hettinger	2,655.99	Richland	14,224.80
Bottineau	4,348.36	Kidder	10,258.10	Rolette	17,092.26
Bowman	1,666.48	LaMoure	5,601.93	Sargent	11,852.00
Burke	776.79	Logan	1,206.89	Sheridan	63,559.38
Burleigh	23,953.81	McHenry	599.17	Sioux	414.57
Cass	6,094.72	McIntosh	5,089.98	Slope	1,832.57
Cavalier	23,692.77	McKenzie	18,544.10	Stark	241.81
Dickey	9,180.24	McLean	44,296.05	Steele	8,153.96
Divide	2,851.17	Mercer	11,620.94	Stutsman	5,762.92
Dunn	7,472.00	Morton	16,969.02	Towner	1,706.14
Eddy	3,481.63	Mountrail	11,126.51	Walsh	8,643.79
Emmons	2,303.57	Nelson	2,408.45	Ward	95.87
Foster	2,575.80	Oliver	1,650.24	Wells	28,578.52
Golden Valley	225.09	Pembina	6,907.12	Williams	6,116.60
Grand Forks	9,907.26	Pierce	1,030.44		